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an increase of temperature with altitude during fog is an exception, and is observed only at the beginning of fog formation, or during very light ground fogs. The usual condition is a decrease of temperature, and occasionally a very rapid decrease.

NOTES.

A PAPER by Sir J. Norman Lockyer, on 'Simultaneous Solar and Terrestrial Changes,' read before the Southport meeting of the International Meteorological Committee (September, 1903), is published in *Nature* for February 11. In this paper Lockyer reviews the work done along similar lines by previous investigators, and gives the results of his own studies, to which reference has already been made in these Notes.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Quarterly Issue, July-September, 1903, contains 'Recent Studies of the Solar Constant of Radiation,' by C. G. Abbot.

R. DE C. WARD.

THE PELÉE CLUB.

THE PELÉE CLUB held its second annual meeting at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., February 27.

This unique organization is composed of men who participated in the events connected with the relief, scientific and news-gathering expeditions to Martinique and St. Vincent. Its original membership embraces about eighty people, including officers of the navy and army, geologists, journalists and magazine writers.

While the club was originally organized to perpetuate the associations and friendships formed during the exciting moments of the Martinique incident, at its first annual meeting it was resolved to make the organization of permanent value to mankind by taking upon itself the function of collecting, as nearly as possible, a complete record of the events of the recent Martinique eruption, and by publishing them in a composite volume, which is well under way.

The society also undertook the collection of all photographs pertaining to the eruptions and relief expeditions, and this has resulted in a collection of nearly two thousand negatives

by Professor E. O. Hovey, chairman of the committee on photographs. The society has made the New York Museum of Natural History (the only American institution, except the National Geographic Society, which has exhibited serious interest in the West Indies) the permanent repository for its collection of photographs and records.

Having progressed thus far, the society at its recent meeting still further expanded its functions. Realizing that the subject of volcanic geography in its widest sense, including all branches of interest pertaining to volcanic countries and phenomena, is a wide and unorganized field of cooperative study, the society has resolved to widen its sphere of usefulness by taking up this subject and becoming a permanent organization for its study. Accordingly it resolved to use the present organization as a nucleus for the expansion of the association, to adopt a permanent organization and to expand the membership by taking into the society all investigators interested in the subject of volcanoes.

When the importance of vulcanism in relation to the environment of man, the part it plays in the structure of the earth, and how little is done to systematically study these subjects, is considered, it is evident that the Pelée Club has before it a most interesting and useful study. The character of its membership is unusually favorable for its successful operation, and it is believed that it will especially stimulate interest in the recording of the important geographic observations of the large number of intelligent observers in the army, navy and journalistic circles, while the purely scientific element is also large and influential.

The society has also resolved to use its influence for the encouragement of local organizations wherever they may be and accept as an affiliated society the unique Club Montagne of Guadeloupe, which in the out-of-the-way island of that name has provided an organization for the study of the Grand Soufrière, the highest and most dangerous-looking volcano of the West Indies, and which, at its own expense, has constructed a road to the summit and made arrangements to guide and enter-

tain all earnest students who wish to visit this remarkable volcano. Similar local organizations will be encouraged in the Philippines, South America, Mexico and other volcanic countries, where, by a little encouragement, local observation will be stimulated.

The committee on permanent organization consists of Capt. T. C. McLean, Commander of the League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia; Professor I. C. Russell, of the University of Michigan; Lieut. Com. J. B. Bernadou, of the U. S. Navy; Major H. J. Gallagher, of the U. S. Army; Professor E. O. Hovey, of the American Museum of Natural History; Professor T. A. Jaggard, of Harvard; Messrs. A. F. Jacacci and George Kennan, the well-known writers, and Messrs. J. Martin Miller, W. M. Mason and J. O. Hammitt, of the press.

The president of the society is Mr. Robert T. Hill, the secretary, Mr. H. H. Smith, and its address is Washington, D. C.

PRESIDENT ELIOT.

THE following letter with some ten thousand signatures was presented to President Eliot on his seventieth birthday.

March 20, 1904.

Dear Mr. President: As with undiminished power you pass the age of seventy, we greet you.

Thirty-five years ago you were called to be president of Harvard College. At the age of thirty-five you became the head of an institution whose history was long, whose traditions were firm, and whose leading counselors were of twice your age. With prophetic insight you anticipated the movements of thought and life; your face was towards the coming day. In your imagination the college was already the university.

You have upheld the old studies and uplifted the new. You have given a new definition to a liberal education. The university has become the expression of the highest intellectual forces of the present as well as of the past.

You have held from the first that teacher and student alike grow strong through freedom. Working eagerly with you and for you are men whose beliefs, whether in education or in religion, differ widely from your own, yet who know that in speaking out their beliefs they are not more loyal to themselves than to you. By your faith in a young man's use of intellectual and spiritual

freedom you have given new dignity to the life of the college student.

The universities and colleges throughout the land, though some are slow to accept your principles and adopt your methods, all feel your power and recognize with gratitude your stimulating influence and your leadership.

Through you the American people have begun to see that a university is not a cloister for the recluse, but an expression of all that is best in the nation's thought and character. From Harvard University men go into every part of our national life. To Harvard University come from the common schools, through paths that have been broadened by your work, the youth who have the capacity and the will to profit by her teaching. Your influence is felt in the councils of the teachers and in the education of the youngest child.

As a son of New England you have sustained the traditions of her patriots and scholars. By precept and example you have taught that the first duty of every citizen is to his country. In public life you have been independent and outspoken; in private life you have stood for simplicity. In the great and bewildering conflict of economic and social questions you have with clear head and firm voice spoken for the fundamental principles of democracy and the liberties of the people.

More precious to the sons of Harvard than your service as educator or citizen is your character. Your outward reserve has concealed a heart more tender than you have trusted yourself to reveal. Defeat of your cherished plans has disclosed your patience and magnanimity and your willingness to bide your time.

Fearless, just, and wise, of deep and simple faith, serene in affliction, self-restrained in success, unsuspected by any man of self interest, you command the admiration of all men and the gratitude and loyalty of the sons of Harvard.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE annual stated session of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning on Tuesday, April 19, 1904.

To celebrate President Eliot's seventieth birthday, Harvard graduates and students have subscribed \$5,000 for a portrait or bust to be placed in the Union.

DR. S. P. LANGLEY, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been made a corre-